

# NAGS HEAD LINES

WWW.TOWNOFNAGSHEAD.NET



## Town Hall

Issue 75

A communications link between you and your government, this publication intends to keep you informed about the “happenings” in your town.

It's been a busy spring for Nags Head. Many years of hard work by many individuals and boards have led us to the brink of a beach nourishment project for ten miles of Nags Head beaches. We have gained the positive support of two thirds of the towns, and the unanimous support of the Dare County commissioners, for an increase of 1% in the occupancy tax, dedicated to responding to erosion issues across the county.



Our next hurdle is the approval of a local bill authorizing the increase in the occupancy tax by the state legislature. In addition, we hope to secure our Army Corps of Engineers permit shortly after a required posting in the Federal Register. Finally, we have been issued a major CAMA permit by the state for the nourishment project with a number of conditions.

The Board of Commissioners and the town manager are working diligently to balance a town budget that will maintain our service levels, retain our employees, and minimize any tax increase. We agree that the Town cannot continue to use our fund balance, our savings, to pay for operating expenses. The Board and the manager have discussed appropriate staffing levels, the elimination of cost of living salary increases, the reduction of Town 401k contributions, and many additional possible expense reductions in training and supplies. We've talked about the services we must have, and the ones that are nice to have. With a 30% increase in retirement contributions required by the State, and the decision to implement a much needed 800 MHz radio system county wide, we started this year behind the eight ball. Through deferment of capital items, and a hiring freeze on all but essential public safety positions, we've managed, but the concern is in falling further behind, with potential increased costs for the future.

I want to thank the members of two committees that have met diligently this spring. The Beach Plan Committee and the Beach Road Committee have devoted several beautiful Saturday mornings to discussing and brainstorming about distinct issues in Nags Head. The Beach Plan Committee has examined our alternative responses to erosion, and judged them on a set of common criteria. The Beach Road Committee, on the other hand, has developed a vision statement for a group of districts along the Beach Road (S. Virginia Dare

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Trail), and the Committee is working to retain the family atmosphere and local merchant population in these areas. Thanks to these folks and all the other volunteers that serve Nags Head with dedication and concern.

Public works has been sifting sand and returning it to the beach dunes recently. Over 600 tons of debris were removed from the public beach and roads. The septic tanks you see in several locations in south Nags Head have not been removed because the owners claim they are on private property. We are moving through the legal system to remove nuisance homes, the homes actually on the public trust land, and the septic tanks from the beach. Public works staff has repaired numerous beach accesses damaged by the fall nor'easters.

Our fire chief since 2002, Butch Osborne, retired in May. He was praised as a "firefighter's chief" and roasted at a retirement lunch. Our best to Butch in retirement! Kevin Zorc, a 25 year veteran firefighter and fire marshal, has been selected as our fire chief. Kevin led the safety team that achieved the NC Department of Labor's Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program award in 2004, and I know he'll lead the Nags Head fire department with the same high standards.

Please stay tuned to [www.townofnagshead.net](http://www.townofnagshead.net) for the latest news. Our monthly meetings are now available on the website in a video archive.

## Nags Head Names Kevin Zorc Fire Chief

The Town of Nags Head has recently promoted Kevin Zorc from fire marshal/safety officer to chief of Nags Head's Fire Department, following the April 2010 retirement of Chief Butch Osborne.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Chief Zorc began his career with the Town of Nags Head in 1984 as a water plant operator. While working in this position, Chief Zorc joined Nags Head's volunteer



Nags Head's recently named Fire Chief, Kevin Zorc

fire department, realized how much he loved the fire service, and, in January 1986, Chief Zorc became a career firefighter for the Town. Since that time, Chief Zorc has moved through the Fire Department's ranks advancing to deputy fire chief in September 1994, and, in January 2001, he added fire marshal/safety officer to his duties.

Chief Zorc holds a B.S. in Fire Science Management from Fayetteville State University and has completed eight years of class work in personnel and incident management at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. In addition to class work, Chief Zorc has tremendous on-the-job training and experience, having weathered many storms, crises, and major incidents.

## Board Meetings Now Archived on Town Web Site

People who missed seeing Town of Nags Head Board meetings live or on local government access channel 20, can now view them on the Town's web site, just a few days after the meeting takes place.

To view the meetings, go to [www.townofnagshead.net](http://www.townofnagshead.net), click on Boards and Committees on the left side of the page, then Board of Commissioners, then scroll down to Board of Commissioners Meeting Video Archive. Users must download a free copy of Microsoft Silverlight, available through the Town's web site, to view the videos.

# Outdoor Grilling Safety from Nags Head Fire & Rescue

With the weather warming up and the days getting longer, a favorite activity is firing up the grill and preparing meals. Even though this is a relatively simple activity we all enjoy, there are hidden dangers. According to the National Fire Protection Association, each year there is an average of 7,900 fires across the country related to grilling, with the peak threat during June and July. Here are some simple tips that will make grilling safe for you and your family.

## Use Barbecue Grills Safely

- Grills are not permitted on motel/hotel/condo decks or balconies in Nags Head.
- Position the grill well away from siding, deck railings, and out from under house eaves and overhanging branches.
- Wood and vinyl siding can be especially vulnerable to damage from grills and can ignite if left unattended.
- Don't grill on covered porches or screened-in decks.
- Set the grill on a solid, even surface to prevent it from moving and getting knocked over.
- Keep the area below and around the grill clear of vegetation.
- Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas, and foot traffic.
- Declare a 3-foot "kid-free

"zone" around the grill.

- Chefs should use long-handled grilling tools to maintain clearance from heat and flames.
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below the grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.
- Use grills outdoors! If grills are used indoors, or in enclosed spaces, such as tents, they are a fire hazard and can expose occupants to carbon monoxide.
- NEVER LEAVE HOT GRILLS UNATTENDED!

## Charcoal Grills

- Purchase the proper starter fluid and store out of reach of children and away from heat sources.
- Never add starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited, and never use flammable or combustible liquid other than starter fluid to get the fire going.
- Once your done grilling, be sure the coals are completely out before disposing of them. DON'T PUT HOT COALS IN THE TRASH.

## Propane Grills

- Check the propane cylinder hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. A light soap and water solution applied to the hose will reveal escaping propane quickly by

releasing bubbles.

- If your grill has a gas leak and there is no flame:
  - Turn off the propane tank and grill.
  - If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again.
  - If the leak does not stop, call the 911.
- If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call 911. Do not attempt to move the grill.
- All propane cylinders manufactured after April 2002 must have overfill protection devices (OPD). OPDs shut off the flow of propane before capacity is reached, limiting the potential for release of propane gas if the cylinder heats up. OPDs are easily identified by their triangular-shaped hand wheel.
- Use only equipment bearing the mark of an independent testing laboratory.
- Follow the manufacturers' instructions on how to set up the grill and maintain it.
- Never store propane cylinders in buildings or garages. If you store a gas grill inside during the winter, disconnect the cylinder and leave it outside.

Call Nags Head Fire and Rescue at 252-441-5909 for more information.

## Don't Forget - Fireworks are Illegal and They Damage Our Fragile Environment

The safety of Nags Head's citizens and visitors is always the top priority for the Nags Head Police Department. To help keep our town safe, the Nags Head Board of Commissioners, in January 2008, passed an amendment to ban the use of fireworks in the town.

Prior to January 2008, only fireworks which exploded or became airborne were banned. The addition to the ordinance includes all fireworks, making the discharge of any fireworks, including sparklers, illegal.

As Nags Head Town Code says, "Except as otherwise provided in this section it shall be unlawful for

any person to ignite or explode any firecracker, torpedo, sky rocket, sparkler or other substance or device that contains and explosive or flammable compound or substance, and is intended or commonly known as fireworks, and which explodes, rises into the air or travels laterally, fires projectiles or discharges sparks into the air."

The purpose of the ban is not to prevent citizens and visitors from enjoying Nags Head; instead, it ensures their safety, as well as the safety of the town itself, for years to come. Injuries and fires are extremely common occurrences associated with the use of fireworks. By ceasing the use of

fireworks, incidents like these can be avoided.

To help educate and deter the use of fireworks, the Town of Nags Head started an awareness campaign letting citizens and visitors alike know about the recent amendment. The Nags Head Police Department will also be doing their best to help educate and deter the use of any fireworks. Due to the amendment, the use of any fireworks could result in a civil fine or a misdemeanor criminal charge.

So, before you purchase fireworks, remember that you cannot use them in Nags Head. We're looking forward to a safe and fun summer.

## Nags Head Receives State Assistance to Repair Nor'Easter/Tropical Storm Damage

The Town of Nags Head was notified in late March that it will be receiving financial assistance from the State of North Carolina to repair public infrastructure and facilities damage that occurred when a severe nor'easter, coupled with the remnants of Hurricane Ida, struck Nags Head November 10-15, 2009.

At the direction of the governor, the State can provide funding assistance to local governments for the repair or replacement of public

properties damaged or destroyed by a declared disaster. In the case of federally-declared disasters, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides the bulk of the public assistance, with the state also kicking in a share. After Hurricane Isabel, for example, the Town received 75% of its recovery funds from FEMA, with the remaining 25% coming from the State. Because the November storm was not declared a federal disaster in North Carolina, federal FEMA funding was unavailable for

repair of public property. In a state-declared disaster, Nags Head will be responsible for 25% of the repair funds, while the State will pick up the remaining 75%.

The State, in the past, has typically provided disaster assistance for debris operations, emergency measures such as waterline repair, road/bridge repair, evacuation, and crisis counseling. The Town of Nags Head is receiving financial assistance for debris operations, emergency measures, and repair of roads and pedestrian bridges. Repair work is ongoing and is expected to be complete by Memorial Day.

# Septic Tank Inspection and Pumping Program

The Town, through independent contractors, offers free inspections for conventionally designed septic systems in Nags Head. Property owners can contact Water Quality Coordinator Todd Krafft (252-449-6047 or [krafft@townofnagshead.net](mailto:krafft@townofnagshead.net)) to order an inspection.

After inspection results are received, the property owner will be notified of the results and whether

or not their tank needs to be pumped. There is no cost to the property owner for the inspection.

## Note

Due to terrain and location, there may be instances in which a septic system/tank cannot be located or accessed, rendering a complete inspection impossible (i.e. dune areas, under too much fill, under



bushes or trees or tall beach grasses).

Inspections will be scheduled in the order they are received. In some cases it may take up to 30 days for some inspections to be completed.

## Tank Pump-Outs

If an inspection indicates a need for tank pumping, owners can contact a pumping firm of their choice. The Town only requires a copy of a paid invoice to receive a \$30 water account credit. Please call before May 31, 2010 for your inspection.

## What Not to Flush

### Household Items

Coffee Grounds      Dental Floss

Kitty Litter      Food Waste

Cigarette Butts      Disposable Diapers

Sanitary Items

### Hazardous Chemicals

Paints      Pesticides

Varnishes

Thinner

Oil

## Nags Head Fire and Rescue Needs You!

We need your help. The Nags Head Fire and Rescue team needs volunteers to assist in many capacities, including administration, support, and firefighting. This is a great chance to be an active member of the Nags Head community. In addition to helping your neighbors, you will:

- develop life-long relationships
- help others in their time of need
- increase your sense of self-fulfillment
- learn vital skills that can help you and your family

Volunteering is not only a great way to support your hometown heroes; it is a great way to become a hometown hero. Call 252-441-5909 to join the reserves!

The Town of Nags Head Septic Health Initiative was created to maintain clean water in and around the town by improving the performance of septic systems. For more information about the program please call 252-449-6047 or visit the Town's website at: [www.townofnagshead.net](http://www.townofnagshead.net).

# Sanitation Collection Schedule

## Residential

### East Route

Properties south of NC 12/1243 intersection (Whalebone Junction), properties located on NC 12, and properties south of MP 11.5/Old Nags Head Place that lie between NC 12 and US 158



**Summer Schedule** (Begins 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in May)

Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday - Collection begins 3 a.m.

**Winter Schedule** (Begins last Monday in September)

Monday and Friday - Collection begins 5 a.m.

### West Route

Properties west of US 158, properties north of MP 11.5/  
Old Nags Head Place that lie between NC 12 and US 158, and properties accessed from US 64/264

**Same Schedule All Year**      Tuesday and Friday - Collection begins 5 a.m. (winter) and 3 a.m. (summer)

**Please roll out carts facing the street the day prior to collection day and back to the house on collection day.**

Having a special event and need to rent extra carts?

Call Public Works, 252-441-1122.

## Commercial

**Summer Schedule** (Begins 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in May)

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday - Collection begins 3 a.m.

**Winter Schedule** (Begins last Monday in September)

Monday and Friday - Collection begins 5 a.m.

## Bulk Item/Brush Drop Off/Collection

Bulk items/brush can be dropped off throughout the year at the Town's collection site at 2211 Lark Avenue, across from Public Works

Site hours are:

Monday, Thursday, and Saturday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

From October 1 through April 30, the Town will collect bulk items from your curb by appointment. Call Nags Head Public Works at 252-441-1122 for more information. Brush is collected throughout the year.



## RECYCLING INFORMATION

### Curbside Collection

Curbside recycling is provided by Outer Banks Hauling (252-480-6699). For \$7.45/month, Outer Banks Hauling will provide a recycling container in which to place your recyclables. The container will be emptied every Tuesday. Outer Banks Hauling offers a seasonal service (3 month minimum contract) for residential properties that may not need recyclable collection all year.

### Town Collection Points

Open 24 hours/day

- Nags Head Town Hall
- Nags Head Public Works
- Huron St. Public Beach Access

## Town Boards and Committees

### Board of Commissioners

Mayor Bob Oakes, Mayor Pro Tem Wayne Gray, Doug Remaley, Anna Sadler, and M. Renée Cahoon

### Planning Board

Chair Robert Edwards, Susie Walters, Carl "Pogie" Worsley, Angelina Lowe, Clyde Futrell, Tom Haddon, Marvin Demers, and alternate Barbara Gernat

### Board of Adjustments

Chair Jack Cooper, Vice-Chair Margaret Suppler, Alvin Hibbs, Susan Boncek, Judy Burnette, and alternates Bob Muller, Matt Whelan, John Mascaro, and Bobby Gentry

### Note

Serve your community by volunteering for a Town board or committee. Applications are kept on file for two years for consideration by the Board of Commissioners when vacancies occur. If interested, please call the Town Clerk at 252-449-2009 or obtain an application from [www.townofnagshead.net](http://www.townofnagshead.net).

### Personnel Grievance Panel

John Ratzenberger; Perry White; and George Barnes

### Citizens Advisory Committee

Chair John Ratzenberger, Vice-Chair Russell Lay, Susan Boncek, John White; Dennis Mabe; Marty Moore, Suzanne Tate, Toni Parker, C. Patrick Pritchard, and Perry White

### Dangerous Animal Appeal Board

Bob Oakes, Perry White, Bobby Gentry, Jeffrey Ackerman

## Municipal Complex Information

### Town Manager

Cliff Ogburn

### Finance Officer

Kim Kenny

### Fire Chief

Kevin Zorc

### Planning and Development Director

Tim L. Wilson

### Police Chief

Kevin Brinkley

### Public Works Director

Dave Clark

### Town Clerk

Carolyn F. Morris

### Public Information

5401 S. Croatan Highway  
Administration, Finance/Tax, Water Billing, Planning/  
Development  
Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
252-441-5508, Email: [info@townofnagshead.net](mailto:info@townofnagshead.net)

### Public Works

2200 Lark Avenue  
Public Facilities Maintenance, Sanitation, Fleet Maintenance,  
Water Distribution and Operations  
Monday - Friday, 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
252-441-1122  
Email: [publicworks@townofnagshead.net](mailto:publicworks@townofnagshead.net)

### Police

Emergency 9-1-1  
Non Emergency 252-473-3444  
5401 S. Croatan Highway  
Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
252-441-6386, Fax 252-441-7335  
Email: [police@townofnagshead.net](mailto:police@townofnagshead.net)

### Fire and Ocean Rescue

Emergency 9-1-1  
Non Emergency 252-473-3444  
Fire Station 16, 5314 S. Croatan Highway  
24 Hours, 252-441-5909, Fax 252-441-8268  
Fire Station 21, 8806 S. Old Oregon Inlet Road  
24 Hours, 252-441-2910, Fax 252-441-3978  
Email: [fire@townofnagshead.net](mailto:fire@townofnagshead.net)



## NAGS HEAD LINES

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## NAGS HEAD Lines

Spring 2010

### **Town Meeting Calendar**

Agendas for Board of Commissioners meetings are published in advance in *The Coastland Times*. All meetings will be held in the Board Room unless otherwise specified. Agenda and background material for the Board of Commissioners meetings can be found on the Town's web site at [www.townofnagshead.net](http://www.townofnagshead.net).

#### **Board of Commissioners**

Meets the first Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m. An adjourned session is held the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. when the Board has a need to hold a second meeting during the month. Meeting dates are subject to change in the event of a conflict (though this occurs rarely)

#### **Planning Board**

Meets the third Tuesday of each month (except in December when they meet the second Tuesday instead) at 3:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Meeting dates are subject to change in the event of a conflict (though this occurs rarely).

#### **Board of Adjustments**

Meets the second Thursday of each month at 9 a.m. in the Board Room when there is a case to be heard by them.

#### **Community Watch**

Meets the second Tuesday of every other month (January, March, May, and October) at 7 p.m. in the Police Training Room. Call the Police Department at 252-441-6386 for meeting times for the August and December meetings.

#### **Dangerous Animal Appeal Board**

Meets as needed in the Board Room.

#### **Citizens Advisory Committee**

Meets as needed in the Board Room.

#### **Personnel Grievance Panel**

Meets in the Board Room on an as-needed basis when a grievance is referred to them.